

UNITED STATES  
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
MINERALS MANAGEMENT SERVICE

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(Insert Appropriate Regional Office)

PERMIT FOR GEOPHYSICAL EXPLORATION  
FOR MINERAL RESOURCES  
OR SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH  
ON THE OUTER CONTINENTAL SHELF

In consideration of the terms and conditions contained herein and the authorization granted hereby, this permit is entered into by and between the United States of America (the Government), acting through the Minerals Management Service of the Department of the Interior, and

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(Name of Permittee)

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(Number and Street)

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(City, State and Zip Code)

Permit Number: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

This permit is made pursuant to the authority of Section 11, Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act of August 7, 1953, as amended on September 18, 1978, by Public Law 95-372, 92 Statute 629, 43 U.S.C. 1340, hereinafter called the "Act"; and Title 30 Code of Federal Regulations Part 251.

Submit Original, two copies, and one public information copy.

Section I. Authorization

The Government hereby authorizes the permittee to conduct:

\_\_\_\_\_ Geophysical exploration for mineral resources as defined by 30 CFR 251.2(o) and (gg).

\_\_\_\_\_ Geophysical scientific research. This is any geophysical investigation that involves the use of solid or liquid explosives as defined in 30 CFR 251.2(p) and (gg).

This permit authorizes the permittee to conduct the above geophysical activity during the period from \_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_ in the following area(s): \_\_\_\_\_.

This permit is granted for the period specified above. Subsequent extensions shall be requested in writing and will be limited to a period of not more than 1 year from the specified termination date of the permit. Inspection and observation of geophysical exploration activities, suspension and cancellation of authority to conduct exploration or scientific research activities under permit, penalties, and appeals shall be performed in accordance with 30 CFR 251.7-1, 251.8, 251.9, and 251.10.

Section II. Type(s) of Operations and Technique(s)

A. The permittee shall employ the following type(s) of operations:

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

and shall utilize the following instruments and/or technique(s) in such operations: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

B. The permittee shall conduct all activities in compliance with the terms and conditions of this permit, including the "Stipulations," "Special Provisions," and the approved "Application for Permit," which are attached to this permit and are incorporated into this permit.

C. The permittee shall conduct all geophysical exploration or scientific research activities in compliance with the Act, the regulations in 30 CFR Part 251, and other applicable statutes and regulations whether such statutes and regulations are enacted, promulgated, issued, or amended before or after this permit is issued. Some of the provisions of 30 CFR Part 251 are restated in this permit for emphasis. However, all of the provisions of 30 CFR Part 251 are incorporated into this permit.

Section III. Reports on Operations

- A. The permittee shall submit status reports on a \_\_\_\_\_ basis in a manner approved or prescribed by the Regional Supervisor, Resource Evaluation (hereinafter referred to as Supervisor). The reporting interval shall not be greater than monthly. The report shall include a daily log of operations and a map (preferably on a scale of 1:\_\_\_\_\_) showing traverse lines according to Minerals Management Service (MMS) area and block numbers.
- B. The permittee shall submit to the Supervisor a final report within 30 days after the completion of operations. The final report shall contain the following:
  - 1. A description of the work performed including number of line miles acquired;
  - 2. Chart(s), map(s), or plat(s) (preferably on a scale of 1:250,000) depicting the areas and blocks in which any exploration or scientific research activities were conducted. These graphics must clearly indicate the location of the activities so that the data produced from the activities can be accurately located and identified;
  - 3. The dates on which the actual geophysical exploration or scientific research activities were performed;
  - 4. A narrative summary of any: (a) hydrocarbon occurrences or environmental hazards observed and (b) adverse effects of the geophysical exploration or scientific research activities on the environment, aquatic life, cultural resources, or other uses of the area in which the activities were conducted;
  - 5. The estimated date on which the processed or analyzed data or information will be available for inspection by the MMS;
  - 6. One ½-inch, nine track, final edited navigation tape of all data or sample locations in latitude/longitude degrees. The tape is to be formatted in ASCII or EBCDIC 1600 BPI with fixed record length and fixed block size. A printed tape listing and a format statement are to be included with the tape; and
  - 7. Such other descriptions of the activities conducted as may be specified by the Supervisor.
- C. The last monthly report and the final report can be combined into one report if this combined report is submitted to MMS within 20 days after the original due date of the last monthly report.

Section IV. Inspection, Selection, and Submission of Geophysical Data and Information

- A. The permittee conducting geophysical exploration or scientific research shall notify the Supervisor in writing within 30 days of the acquisition, processing, and interpretation of any geophysical data and information collected under the permit. All geophysical data, processed geophysical information, and interpreted geophysical information collected by the permittee shall be made available for inspection by the Supervisor. Written notice of the completion of acquisition, processing, and interpretation shall be reported independently. Within 30 days following the receipt of the Supervisor's request for a notice of any reprocessing or subsequent interpretation of the geophysical data or information collected under the permit, the permittee shall submit notice of the availability in writing. If subsequent reprocessing of the data and information are conducted, it is the responsibility of the permittee to keep the most current resulting products available in the event a request is received from the Supervisor concerning the current status of data utilization, in which case a new period as specified herein begins for inspection and selection of the data and information. At any time within 10 years after receiving notice of the acquisition, processing, reprocessing, or interpretation of the geophysical data and information collected under the permit, the Supervisor may select for retention all or part of the geophysical data, processed and reprocessed geophysical information, and interpreted geophysical information.
- B. The Supervisor shall have the right to inspect geophysical data, processed geophysical information, reprocessed geophysical information, or interpreted geophysical information prior to final selection. This inspection shall be performed on the permittee's premises unless the Supervisor requests that the permittee deliver the data or information to the Supervisor for inspection. Such delivery shall be within 30 days following the receipt of the Supervisor's request unless the Supervisor authorizes a later delivery date. The data or information requested for inspection or selected by the Supervisor must be submitted regardless of whether the permittee and the Government have or have not concluded an agreement for reimbursement. At any time prior to final selection, the Supervisor may return any or all geophysical data or information following either its inspection and detailed assessment of its quality, or the establishment of a price to the Government for the reproduction, processing or reprocessing (if the processing or reprocessing was in the form and manner of processing other than that used in the normal conduct of the permittee's business at the Director's request) of the geophysical data or information. If the

Supervisor decides to keep all or a portion of the geophysical data or information, the Supervisor shall notify the permittee, in writing, of this decision. If the inspection is done on the permittee's premises, the permittee shall submit the geophysical data or information selected within 30 days following receipt of the Supervisor's request, unless the Supervisor authorizes a longer period of time for delivery. The Supervisor shall have the right to arrange, by contract or otherwise, for the reproduction, without the consent of the permittee, of geophysical data, processed geophysical information, reprocessed geophysical information, and interpreted geophysical information.

- C. In the event that geophysical data, processed geophysical information, reprocessed geophysical information, or interpreted geophysical information are transferred from the permittee to a third party, or from a third party to another third party, the transferor shall notify the Supervisor in writing of the transfer and shall require the receiving third party, in writing, to abide by the obligations of the permittee as specified in this section as a condition precedent to the transfer of data or information.
- D. Each submission of geophysical data, processed geophysical information, reprocessed geophysical information, and interpreted geophysical information shall contain, unless otherwise specified by the Supervisor, the following:
  - 1. An accurate and complete record of each geophysical survey conducted under the permit, including digital navigational data and final location maps of all survey stations;
  - 2. All seismic data developed under a permit presented in a format and of a quality suitable for processing;
  - 3. Processed geophysical information derived from seismic data with extraneous signals and interference removed, presented in a format and of a quality suitable for interpretive evaluation, reflecting state-of-the-art processing techniques; and
  - 4. Other geophysical data, processed geophysical information, reprocessed geophysical information, and interpreted geophysical information obtained from, but not limited to, shallow and deep subbottom surveys, bathymetry, side-scan sonar gravity and magnetic surveys, and special studies such as refraction and velocity surveys.

Section V. Reimbursement to Permittees

- A. After the delivery of geophysical data, processed geophysical information, reprocessed geophysical information, and interpreted geophysical information requested by the Supervisor in accordance with subsection IV of this permit, and upon receipt of a request for reimbursement and a determination by the Supervisor that the requested reimbursement is proper, the permittee or third party shall be reimbursed for the reasonable costs of reproducing the submitted data and information at the permittee's or third party's lowest rate or at the lowest commercial rate established in the area, whichever is less.
- B. If the processing or reprocessing was in a form and manner other than that used in the normal conduct of the permittee's business at the Supervisor's request, the Supervisor shall pay the reasonable costs of processing or reprocessing such data. Requests for reimbursement shall identify processing and reprocessing costs separate from acquisition costs.
- C. The permittee or third party shall not be reimbursed for the costs of acquiring or interpreting geophysical information.
- D. Data and information required under section IV.D.I. of this permit are not considered to be geophysical data or processed geophysical information and shall be provided by the permittee at no cost to the Government.

Section VI. Disclosure of Data and Information to the Public

- A. The Director, MMS, or the Supervisor shall make data and information submitted by a permittee available in accordance with the requirements and subject to the limitations of the Freedom of Information Act (5 U.S.C. 552) and the implementing regulations (43 CFR Part 2), the requirements of the Act, and the regulations contained in 30 CFR Part 250 (Oil and Gas and Sulphur Operations in the Outer Continental Shelf), 30 CFR Part 251 (Geological and Geophysical (G&G) Explorations of the Outer Continental Shelf), and 30 CFR Part 252 (Outer Continental Shelf (OCS) Oil and Gas Information Program).
- B. Except as specified in this section, or Section VIII, or in 30 CFR Parts 250, 251, and 252, no data or information determined by the Supervisor to be exempt from public disclosure under subsection A of this section shall be provided to any affected State or be made available to the executive of any affected local government or to the public

unless the permittee and all persons to whom such permittee has sold the data or information under promise of confidentiality agree to such an action.

- C. Geophysical data, processed geophysical information, reprocessed geophysical information, and interpreted geophysical information submitted under a permit, and retained by the Supervisor shall be disclosed as follows:
  - 1. The Supervisor shall make available to the public geophysical data 50 years after the date which the data are submitted.
  - 2. The Supervisor shall make available to the public processed geophysical information, reprocessed geophysical information, and interpreted geophysical information 25 years after the date which the information is submitted. It is the policy of MMS that the "date of submission" of geophysical data or information obtained under geophysical permits shall be the date that the MMS contracting officer or his/her representative, signs the contract/delivery order or purchase order to reimburse the permittee for reproduction and if appropriate, processing of the geophysical information. In the absence of a contract, delivery order, or purchase order, the date of receipt by MMS is the date of submission.
  - 3. The Supervisor shall make available to the public all geophysical data and information and geophysical interpretations obtained from drilling a deep stratigraphic test or submitted in support of an application for a permit to drill a deep stratigraphic test, or which the permittee is required to obtain in order to conduct the drilling of a deep stratigraphic test, at the earlier of the following times:
    - (a) 25 years after completion of the test, or
    - (b) for a lease sale held after the test well is completed, 60 calendar days after the Department of the Interior executes the first lease for a block, any part of which is within 50 geographic miles (92.6 kilometers) of the site of the completed test.
- D. All line-specific preplot or postplot plat(s), and navigation tapes, including but not limited to seismic survey traverses and shotpoint locations, submitted as a requirement of 30 CFR 251.7-2, 251.7-3, or 251.12(d)(1), shall be considered as "PROPRIETARY INFORMATION." Such information shall not be made available to the public without the consent of the permittee for a period of 25 years from the date of issuance of the permit, unless the Director, MMS, determines that earlier release is necessary for the proper development of the area permitted.
- E. All other data and information submitted as a requirement of 30 CFR 251.7-2 and 251.7-3 and determined by the Supervisor to be exempt from public disclosure shall be considered as "PROPRIETARY."

Such data and information shall not be made available to the public without the consent of the permittee for a period of 25 years from the date of issuance of the permit, unless the Director, MMS, determines that earlier release is necessary for the proper development of the area permitted. The executed permit shall be considered as "PROPRIETARY" except the public information copy which shall be available to the public upon request.

#### Section VII. Disclosure to Independent Contractors

The Supervisor reserves the right to disclose any data or information acquired from a permittee to an independent contractor or agent for the purpose of reproducing, processing, reprocessing, or interpreting such data or information. When practicable, the Supervisor shall notify the permittee who provided the data or information of intent to disclose the data or information to an independent contractor or agent. The Supervisor's notice of intent will afford the permittee a period of not less than 5 working days within which to comment on the intended action. When the Supervisor so notifies a permittee of the intent to disclose data or information to an independent contractor or agent, all other owners of such data or information shall be deemed to have been notified of the Supervisor's intent. Prior to any such disclosure, the contractor or agent shall be required to execute a written commitment not to transfer or to otherwise disclose any data or information to anyone without the express consent of the Supervisor. The contractor or agent shall be liable for any unauthorized use by or disclosure of data or information to third parties.

#### Section VIII. Sharing of Information with Affected States

- A. At the time of soliciting information and nominations for the leasing of lands within 3 geographic miles of the seaward boundary of any coastal State, the Supervisor, pursuant to the provisions of 30 CFR 252.7(a)(4) and 252.7(b) and subsections 8(g) and 26(e) of the Act, shall provide the Governor of the State (or the Governor's designated representative) the following information that have been acquired by the Supervisor on such lands proposed to be offered for leasing:
1. All information on the geographical, geological, and ecological characteristics of the areas and regions proposed to be offered for leasing;
  2. An estimate of the oil and gas reserves in the areas proposed for leasing; and



3. An identification of any field, geological structure, or trap located within 3 miles of the seaward boundary of the State.
- B. After the time of receipt of information and nominations for any area of the OCS within 3 geographic miles of the seaward boundary of any coastal State and Area Identification in accordance with the provisions of Subparts D and E of 30 CFR Part 256, the Supervisor, in consultation with the Governor of the State (or the Governor's designated representative), shall determine whether any tracts being given further consideration for leasing may contain one or more oil or gas reservoirs underlying both the OCS and lands subject to the jurisdiction of the State.
  - C. At any time prior to a sale, information acquired by the Supervisor that pertains to the identification of oil or gas pools or fields underlying both the OCS and lands subject to the jurisdiction of any coastal State on tracts selected for leasing within 3 geographic miles of the seaward boundary of any such State will be shared, upon request by the Governor and pursuant to the provisions of 30 CFR 252.7(a)(4) and 252.7(b) and subsections 8(g) and 26(e) of the Act, with the Governor of such State (or the Governor's designated representative).
  - D. Knowledge obtained by a State official who receives information under subsections A and B of this section shall be subject to the requirements and limitations of the Freedom of Information Act (5 U.S.C. 552) and the implementing regulations (43 CFR Part 2), the Act, the regulations contained in 30 CFR Part 250 (Oil and Gas and Sulphur Operations in the Outer Continental Shelf), the regulations in 30 CFR Part 251 (Geological and Geophysical (G&G) Explorations of the Outer Continental Shelf), and the regulations contained in 30 CFR Part 252 (Outer Continental Shelf (OCS) Oil and Gas Information Program).

#### Section IX. Permit Modifications

The Department shall have the right at any time to modify or amend any provisions of this permit, except that the Department shall not have such right with respect to the provisions of sections VI, VII, and VIII hereof, unless required by an Act of Congress.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF the parties have executed this permit and it shall be effective as of the date of signature by the Supervisor.

PERMITTEE:

THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA:

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(Signature of Permittee)

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(Signature of Regional Supervisor,  
Resource Evaluation)

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(Type or Print Name of Permittee)

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(Type or Print Name of Supervisor)

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(Title)

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(Date)

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(Date)